



International Affairs Examination IAC Nationals 2026

Instructions – Mark your answers on the scantron provided. Correct answers are worth 2 points. Incorrect answers are worth –1 point. Questions left blank are worth 0 points. Write the answer to your tiebreaker question in the box at the top of your scantron.

1. Which statement best describes the main purpose of foreign policy?
 - A. It determines how a country enforces its immigration laws.
 - B. It primarily dictates how and from where corporations can import goods.
 - C. It controls taxation and spending priorities within a country.
 - D. It guides how a country manages relationships with other countries and global issues.
2. When two countries depend heavily on trade with one another, leaders may be less likely to choose war for which of these reasons?
 - A. conflict could damage economic benefits that both countries receive from cooperation
 - B. trade eliminates all political disagreements between governments
 - C. economic ties require countries to adopt similar forms of government
 - D. commercial agreements make military action illegal in most cases
3. Why was Sweden's decision to join NATO in 2024 considered a major foreign policy shift?
 - A. It marked a move away from long-standing military non-alignment after Russia's invasion of Ukraine
 - B. It marked a decision to leave the European Union and focus on defense
 - C. It marked a decision to leave behind alliances with Nordic countries entirely
 - D. It marked a return to a Cold War policy of refusing cooperation with Western countries
4. How can international organizations such as the IMF or World Bank influence domestic economic policy?
 - A. By directly replacing national legislatures in member states
 - B. By attaching policy conditions to financial assistance
 - C. By requiring all countries to adopt the same party system
 - D. By prohibiting governments from collecting taxes on trade
5. Which of the following best describes a unitary system of government?
 - A. Power is divided between regional governments that act independently of the national government.
 - B. Power is shared equally between legislative and judicial institutions at every level.
 - C. Power is concentrated in a central government that can create or eliminate local governments.
 - D. Power is controlled by military leaders who govern through regional commands.
6. Javier Milei took office in late 2023 as the leader of what South American nation?
 - A. Venezuela
 - B. Brazil
 - C. Colombia
 - D. Argentina
7. Why was South Africa's 2024 election result considered a turning point in the country's politics?
 - A. The African National Congress lost its parliamentary majority and had to form a coalition government
 - B. The African National Congress won every province and strengthened one-party rule
 - C. The election ended the presidency and replaced it with rule by provincial governors
 - D. The election led South Africa to suspend all major political parties
8. Which of the following is the best example of civil society?
 - A. A ministry issues new regulations for public schools.
 - B. A parliament passes a national budget after debate.
 - C. A local environmental group organizes citizens to advocate for cleaner water.
 - D. A president vetoes a bill approved by the legislature.

9. What Canadian leader said the world was 'in the midst of a rupture, not a transition' in a speech at the World Economic Forum in 2026?

- A. Kier Starmer
- B. Mark Carney
- C. Joe Clark
- D. Kim Campbell

10. Since a snap election in 2024, Michel Barnier, François Bayrou, and Sébastien Lecornu have all been appointed to what office that serves as head of government in France's semi-presidential system?

- A. Vice President
- B. Speaker of the House
- C. President of the Senate
- D. Prime Minister

11. What is the primary role of the United Nations in international relations?

- A. To provide one country with authority over the laws of all other countries
- B. To promote cooperation among countries on peace, security, and global problems
- C. To replace national governments with a single worldwide government
- D. To require all countries to adopt the same economic system

12. The argument that sending humanitarian aid abroad will improve the country's reputation and build stronger relationships with other nations is most closely connected to which of these concepts?

- A. soft power
- B. isolationism
- C. territorial expansion
- D. military conscription

13. Why did the European Union move in 2024 to place higher tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles?

- A. Chinese vehicles failed to meet all international road safety rules
- B. China had agreed to stop exporting electric vehicles to Europe
- C. Chinese state support gave those vehicles an unfair trade advantage
- D. European carmakers wanted to end all competition from Asia

14. Which statement best describes civil society?

- A. government agencies that enforce public policy
- B. a court that settles disputes among regions or states
- C. a method of proportional elections
- D. a network of voluntary associations autonomous from the state

15. Which of these is the term for a system that holds regular elections in which one political party consistently dominates the political system and opposition parties face major disadvantages?

- A. Liberal democracy
- B. Electoral authoritarianism
- C. Parliamentary democracy
- D. Theocracy

16. Why did the Bank of Japan's 2024 decision to end negative interest rates attract global attention?

- A. It was a historic shift from an unusual stimulus policy
- B. It marked a decision to stop using a central bank to set monetary policy
- C. It officially pegged the yen to the US dollar
- D. It paved the way to freeze all borrowing and lending by private banks

17. In February of 2026, Yoon Suk Yeol, the former president of South Korea, was sentenced to life in prison for which of the following?

- A. murder
- B. theft of government funds
- C. orchestrating an insurrection
- D. declaring war on North Korea

18. Which of the following best explains the role of an independent judiciary in a democratic system?

- A. It helps ensure that laws and government actions can be reviewed fairly.
- B. It allows military leaders to supervise the actions of elected officials.
- C. It gives the executive branch final authority over constitutional disputes.
- D. It enables political parties to control court decisions during elections.

19. Why did Mexico's 2024 judicial reform debate receive scrutiny from international observers?

- A. The reform would require Mexico to abolish its Supreme Court and all lower courts
- B. The reform would make state governors, rather than voters, appoint every federal judge
- C. The reform would enable drug cartels to control Mexican courts
- D. Electing judges by popular vote can weaken checks on political power and create uncertainty about the rule of law

20. Which of the following, who has served as leader of his country since assuming the office of prime minister in 2003, declared that he would retire once his presidential term ended in 2028?

- A. Vladimir Putin
- B. Viktor Orban
- C. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
- D. Abdullah Gül

21. An collective security agreement like NATO is one in which member countries promise to do which of these?
- Defend one another if a member is attacked
 - Eliminate all national borders between member states
 - Share the same language in schools and government offices
 - End all economic competition among member states
22. Which of these best defines economic liberalization?
- The state reduces its economic role and expands free market mechanisms.
 - The state increases price controls and expands ownership of major industries.
 - The state limits foreign trade and restricts private business activity.
 - The state replaces private firms with military administration of production.
23. What was the main significance of the African Union becoming a permanent member of the G20 in 2023?
- It allowed the African Union to dictate regional trade policy
 - It turned the G20 from an economic forum into a political alliance with African leadership
 - It gave African countries a stronger collective voice in a major global economic forum
 - It required all African countries to adopt a single currency to facilitate trade
24. A government that transfers some policymaking authority from the national level to regional governments in order to improve public confidence is an example of which of the following?
- corporatism used to regulate interest groups
 - devolution used to affect political legitimacy
 - privatization used to reduce state ownership
 - democratization used to expand voter turnout
25. Which of the following is the best example of political legitimacy?
- Citizens vote only when they are required to do so by law.
 - Citizens support the government because it controls the national military.
 - Citizens follow government policies because local officials fear punishment.
 - Citizens obey the government because they believe its authority is rightful.
26. Sheikh Hasina was ousted as prime minister of what nation in 2024 following student protests that were violently repressed by the government?
- Pakistan
 - Afghanistan
 - Bangladesh
 - India
27. Sri Lanka sought international aid in 2022 after it ran short of essential imports such as fuel and medicine due to which of the following?
- a war with India
 - a major economic crisis
 - an earthquake and tsunami
 - a civil war within the country
28. Which of these best describes the process by which a government increases censorship, weakens opposition parties, and limits public criticism, while still keeping some formal democratic institutions?
- Democratization
 - Economic liberalization
 - Democratic backsliding
 - Structural adjustment
29. In 2024, Nayib Bukele won re-election in El Salvador by promising to continue his crackdown against which of the following, including groups like MS-13 and Barrio 18?
- criminal gangs
 - multinational corporations
 - rival political parties
 - insurance companies
30. In October of 2025, Sanae Takaichi became the first female head of state in what Asian nation?
- South Korea
 - Japan
 - China
 - Thailand
31. Which situation best illustrates the use of economic sanctions as a foreign policy tool?
- A country limits trade and financial transactions to pressure another government to change its behavior.
 - A country sends aid workers and engineers to help rebuild after a natural disaster.
 - A country signs a cultural exchange program to increase student travel and language study.
 - A country reduces taxes for domestic companies that produce goods for local consumers.
32. Which of these best describes how globalization can challenge sovereignty in a regime?
- Local elections always become less competitive as international trade increases.
 - Legislatures automatically lose all lawmaking authority when tariffs are reduced.
 - Civil society groups disappear when foreign firms enter domestic markets.
 - Foreign direct investment and multinational corporations can pressure a government's core ideas and principles.

33. What was one main significance of BRICS expanding its membership in 2024?

- A. It turned BRICS into a formal military alliance with a shared defense treaty
- B. It increased the bloc's economic and political weight while supporting its claim to represent more of the Global South
- C. It guaranteed that all major developing countries would follow the same foreign policy
- D. It required member countries to replace their national currencies with one shared currency immediately

34. In the United Kingdom, members of the House of Commons are elected primarily through which of these methods?

- A. single-member districts using first-past-the-post rules
- B. multimember districts using closed-list party rules
- C. national districts using proportional allocation rules
- D. regional districts using two-round majority rules

35. In a parliamentary system, how is the head of government typically selected?

- A. appointed by the highest court
- B. elected in a national referendum
- C. chosen by the legislature
- D. selected by regional governors

36. The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance is a coalition of political parties that competes with what ruling political coalition that includes the BJP?

- A. United Progressive Alliance
- B. National Democratic Alliance
- C. Indian National Congress Alliance
- D. All India Alliance

37. On January 8, 2023, supporters of Jair Bolsonaro attacked government buildings in what capital of Brazil?

- A. Manaus
- B. Sao Paulo
- C. Belo Horizonte
- D. Brasilia

38. Which of the following best describes political efficacy?

- A. The belief that citizens can understand politics and influence government decisions.
- B. The authority of courts to remove elected officials from office.
- C. The power of the military to enforce national policy.
- D. The ability of parties to control all election outcomes.

39. Nusantara is set to become the capital city of what Asian nation in 2028?

- A. Malaysia
- B. Laos
- C. Indonesia
- D. Cambodia

40. Which of these would generally be the responsibility of the head of government in a country that also has a separate head of state?

- A. making treaties with other nations
- B. setting trade policy
- C. overseeing the government bureaucracy
- D. serving as commander-in-chief of the military

41. If a country opens language institutes abroad, funds international broadcasting, and sponsors educational exchanges it is focusing on which of these aspects of foreign policy?

- A. Collective security
- B. Soft power
- C. Hard power
- D. Territorial expansion

42. Which of the following best describes globalization?

- A. The growing interconnection of markets, goods, capital, and workers across political borders
- B. The transfer of executive power from national governments to local governments within a state
- C. The replacement of elections with economic planning by central government ministries
- D. The use of military force to prevent foreign firms from operating in domestic markets

43. Why was Claudia Sheinbaum's 2024 election in Mexico considered significant?

- A. She became Mexico's first president from the PAN party
- B. She became Mexico's first female president after a landslide victory
- C. She became Mexico's first leader chosen by a military junta in over a century
- D. She became Mexico's first president to campaign mainly on ending elections

44. Compared with democratic regimes, authoritarian regimes are generally more likely to which of these?

- A. encourage public contestation and protect civil liberties more
- B. expand voting access and permit broader policy disagreement
- C. increase transparency and allow stronger electoral competition
- D. restrict citizen participation and tolerate mass protest less

45. Which of these is an example of a referendum?

- A. Members of parliament vote to remove a prime minister from office.
- B. Judges review an executive action for legality.
- C. Citizens vote directly on a proposed constitutional amendment.
- D. Cabinet ministers negotiate a coalition agreement.

46. What city erupted into widespread protests in 2019 over a bill proposed by the Chinese government to extradite certain criminals for trial in Beijing?

- A. Wuhan
- B. Hong Kong
- C. Shanghai
- D. Macau

47. Which of the following was added to the name of Macedonia in the 2010s to resolve a long-running dispute with Greece?

- A. North
- B. East
- C. West
- D. South

48. Which of these best describes rule of law?

- A. Military leaders can suspend laws during periods of public protest.
- B. The executive may ignore court decisions during national emergencies.
- C. Government officials are required to follow the same laws as ordinary citizens.
- D. Legislators may avoid prosecution while serving in office for any crime.

49. Since 2018, Greta Thunberg has emerged as one of the leading activists in the world on which of these issues?

- A. education for women and girls
- B. nuclear disarmament
- C. climate change
- D. income inequality

50. In 2023, Petteri Orpo succeeded Sanna Marin as prime minister of what Nordic nation?

- A. Sweden
- B. Latvia
- C. Lithuania
- D. Finland

51. A cease-fire agreement is an arrangement in which opposing sides agree to do which of these?

- A. Pause fighting for a period of time, even if deeper disputes remain unresolved
- B. Withdraw from all conflict zones at the same time and abandon conquered territory
- C. Transfer control of disputed land to a neutral country immediately
- D. Accept a permanent political settlement

52. Why might a government encourage foreign direct investment even when it creates political risks?

- A. It automatically removes inequality in income and wealth distribution
- B. It may stimulate growth, employment, and domestic economic development
- C. It guarantees that multinational corporations will follow domestic priorities
- D. It prevents outside cultural influences from entering the country

53. What made India's 2024 national election result especially important for Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

- A. He won a third term, but his party lost its outright majority and had to rely more on allies
- B. He lost power completely after his party failed to win any seats in Parliament
- C. He won a third term and his party gained enough seats to govern without any opposition
- D. He won a third term and immediately announced that India would end coalition politics

54. Which example best illustrates a cleavage that can shape political behavior and affect regime stability?

- A. A temporary budget shortfall caused by declining tax revenue
- B. A cabinet reshuffle following a routine election victory
- C. A transportation strike limited to one metropolitan region
- D. A deep ethnic division that influences voting and public conflict

55. Which statement best describes the relationship between a free press and democratization?

- A. A free press can prevent democratization by eliminating political competition.
- B. A free press can replace elections by expressing public opinion more efficiently.
- C. A free press can strengthen democratization by increasing transparency and accountability.
- D. A free press can guarantee democratization by removing all social divisions.

56. In the US, treaties must be approved by which of the following?

- A. the House of Representatives
- B. a 2/3 vote of the Senate
- C. a simple majority vote in the Senate
- D. only the president

57. In January of 2026, President Trump became chairman for life of what international body?

- A. the UN
- B. the WTO
- C. the Board of Peace
- D. the G20

58. Which of the following best explains why a government might decentralize power?

- A. To give subnational governments more authority over local matters.
- B. To eliminate all constitutional limits on executive leadership.
- C. To ensure that national laws are written by the judiciary.
- D. To prevent citizens from participating in local elections.

59. On October 7, 2023, Israel was attacked by which of the following groups which touched off a war in Gaza?

- A. Al-Qaeda
- B. the Muslim Brotherhood
- C. the Baa'ithists
- D. Hamas

60. Since May of 2025, Marco Rubio has been both Secretary of State, and held which other job that is also key to US foreign policy making?

- A. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs
- B. National Security Advisor
- C. Secretary of Energy
- D. President Pro-Tempore of the Senate

61. Which scenario is the clearest example of a country using hard power?

- A. It threatens military action unless another government withdraws its troops.
- B. It funds international music festivals and language programs overseas.
- C. It expands scholarship opportunities for students from other countries.
- D. It hosts scientific conferences for researchers from allied states.

62. Which scenario best illustrates how a multinational corporation can challenge state sovereignty?

- A. A foreign firm pressures a government to relax labor and environmental regulations
- B. A local school board changes the curriculum after a municipal election
- C. A domestic court reviews a law for consistency with the constitution
- D. A legislature forms a coalition cabinet after national elections

63. Which of the following restrictions was ended in China in 2015 after 35 years?

- A. the ban private property ownership
- B. a ban on political parties other than the Communist Party
- C. the 'one-child policy'
- D. the 'Great Firewall' internet restrictions

64. What was the main purpose of the United Nations Security Council resolution that China and Russia vetoed in early April of 2026?

- A. To authorize a permanent blockade of all Iranian ports in the Persian Gulf
- B. To coordinate international protection for commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz
- C. To transfer control of Gulf shipping lanes from national navies to the UN
- D. To require every Security Council member to send ground troops to the region

65. Which of the following best explains why an authoritarian regime might allow limited elections?

- A. To ensure that opposition parties gain equal access to state resources.
- B. To transfer policymaking authority fully to local governments.
- C. To eliminate the influence of the military in national politics.
- D. To increase legitimacy while maintaining control over outcomes.

66. Imran Khan, the former prime minister of Pakistan, rose to fame as a star player in which of these sports?

- A. soccer
- B. basketball
- C. cricket
- D. baseball

67. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was the official name of the international agreement signed in 2015 involving the nuclear program of what nation?

- A. Iraq
- B. Iran
- C. Pakistan
- D. North Korea

68. Which of these best describes a vote of no confidence?

- A. A legislature withdraws support from the prime minister and forces the government to resign.
- B. A court declares an executive order unconstitutional after a legal challenge.
- C. A president rejects a bill passed by the national legislature.
- D. A referendum asks voters to approve a constitutional amendment.

69. President Juan Manuel Santos won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2016 after negotiating a peace agreement with FARC rebels in what nation?

- A. Mexico
- B. Costa Rica
- C. Panama
- D. Colombia

70. Former Premier League player Mikheil Kavelashvili was elected president of what nation in 2024 following an election widely disputed by international observers?

- A. Estonia
- B. Denmark
- C. Georgia
- D. Greece

71. Why might countries support the use of peacekeeping missions in conflict areas?

- A. They can help reduce violence and create conditions for political negotiations.
- B. They allow outside powers to permanently rule smaller countries by force.
- C. They ensure that long-term ethnic and political tensions will dissipate.
- D. They require countries in the region to adopt the same military posture.

72. Which of these would lead a government might adopt economic liberalization policies?

- A. eliminating all inequality within a short period of time
- B. guarantee complete self-sufficiency in national industry
- C. preventing foreign investment from entering the country
- D. address rising unemployment and reduced productivity

73. Which of these pairs of countries have the largest proven oil reserves in the world?

- A. the US and Russia
- B. Saudi Arabia and Venezuela
- C. Canada and Iraq
- D. Mexico and the UAE

74. What concern has Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy raised about the international response to the Iran war?

- A. That a longer conflict could reduce attention and military support for Ukraine
- B. That Ukraine would be required to withdraw from the United Nations immediately
- C. That European countries would end all sanctions on Russia within the month
- D. That Ukraine would be asked to send combat troops to enforce a Gulf ceasefire

75. Which of these best describes a federal system?

- A. A national government delegates tasks to local officials who may be removed at any time.
- B. A ruling party appoints all provincial leaders without legal constraints.
- C. A national government shares constitutional powers with regional governments.
- D. A military council administers policy through territorial commands.

Tiebreaker

This question will only be scored if there is a tie for placement on the exam. **This is a required question, but there is no penalty for a wrong answer to this question.** Write your answer legibly in the space provided on your scantron.

According to 2026 IMF data, was the GDP of Russia in 2025 in USD?